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## **Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) Summary**

**Clinic or Custodian: Capital Health**

**Project Title: ARTSSN (Alberta Real Time Syndromic Surveillance Net)**

**Date Submitted: March 23, 2008**

**Date Accepted: April 18, 2008**

**OIPC TRAX File: H2017**

### **Project Summary:**

The Alberta Real Time Syndromic Surveillance Net (ARTSSN) project is being undertaken in Capital Health to enhance Capital Health Public Health Division's capacity to collect, analyze, interpret, and disseminate information related to early detection of disease outbreak, health protection, and disease prevention.

A requirement for syndromic surveillance throughout the Capital Health Region was identified. Up to this time, there was limited or no mechanism for routine surveillance of protocols of public health interest, such as communicable disease, toxic exposure, or injury. Existing paper-based systems provided limited analysis and interpretive capacity due to labor-intensive processes and resulted in gaps in data collection, maintenance, and communication of findings.

The ARTSSN project will establish a Data Repository of patient de-identified data collected from Capital Health Link, Capital Health emergency department visits, and clinical results from the Capital Health Clinical Data Repository to provide information useful for detecting communicable diseases and tracking environmental hazard exposures and injuries on a daily or real-time basis.

Voxiva, a web-based surveillance tracking tool, will be used with ARTSSN. With Voxiva, users are able to view and analyze data using graphs, charts, maps, and reporting tools (e.g. incidence rates over a defined period of time, based on gender, age groups, geographical location). Aggregate and de-identified data may be viewed by authorized Voxiva users in a number of ways such that detection of any abnormal patterns becomes an intuitive process.

Voxiva provides a notification feature to issue alerts triggered by events in the system. These triggers are based on rules or conditions definable by Capital Health and the information contained in the notifications is determined by Capital Health (e.g. a notification triggered once 50 calls to Capital Health Link are received in a 6-hour interval with symptoms of cough and fever; a notification regarding detection of a communicable disease).

The goal of the ARTSSN project is to enhance public health surveillance through early (real-time) and automated disease outbreak detection, tracking, and communication of syndromic data. The ARTSSN project is expected to

- improve timeliness of disease detection and reporting of communicable disease,
- increase ability to identify previously undetected outbreaks and clusters of exposure to environmental hazards,
- provide useful information in a timely manner to stakeholders in the notifiable disease process to facilitate improved decision-making and actions during outbreak management, and
- improve tracking of responses for notifications and early intervention.

**For additional information on this project contact:**

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